

***From Bayonet To Scalpel, Book One, A Marine's Odyssey.*** Ed Krekorian, M.D., Colonel, (Ret) Medical Corps, United States Army. Huntington, WV: University Editions, Inc., 1996. 382 pp. \$10.

**Reviewed by Robert L. Bartlett, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

I heard so much from my fellow residents at Liberty Heights (a retirement complex in Colorado Springs) about Ed Krekorian's book that I simply had to read it. Ed and his wife Pat also reside at Liberty Heights. I asked Ed if I could borrow a copy of his book to read and he gave me an autographed copy to keep. True, when I say I'm passing the book on to all my friends—especially former Marines, both young and old.

Having been a Navy See Bee officer, lucky enough to have had Basic Marine training in landing techniques, I fully understood what Ed's main character J.P. Franklin goes through in World War II. In fact, I went in on several of the same islands in the Pacific. Ed's vivid accounts and believable detail took me back like no other war novel has ever done.

J.P. Franklin (Ed Krekorian) lives a life of love, fear, hate, sorrow, luck, untold energy, and good fortune. *From Bayonet To Scalpel* epitomizes the true meaning of the Marine Corps's motto "Semper Fidelis." Because Ed has obviously lived these feelings to the utmost degree, his writing style is straight to the point and convincingly descriptive.

As WWII wound down, J.P. Franklin was discharged from the Marine Corps only to find that civilian life was not for him. He loved the excitement and discipline found in the military and despised the lack of these qualities in civilian life. (This same feeling was very prevalent among my peers, both officers and enlisted men.) In the novel, J.P. finally attends college under the G.I. Bill, but lacks motivation and his GPA suffered. Finally, quite by accident, he sees an ad in the local paper asking for veterans with combat experience to apply for one of 12 openings to become a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. J.P. jumps at the chance and is accepted as a direct-commission second lieutenant.

Re-entrenched in the military life, J.P. undergoes extensive training in the armored branch (automatic weapons) and ends up assigned to a company in Korea. He performs above and beyond until he is evacuated with severe leg wounds to Walter Reed Hospital Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. Before leaving Korea, however, J.P. is presented with the coveted Silver Star and also receives a Purple Heart. It is while he is recovering at Walter Reed that J.P. decides that he wants to become a doctor. After discharge from the army, J.P. returns to school to improve his past low GPA and does so. In time, he is admitted to Medical School

in Georgia, from where he graduates with honors. “I was trained, as a young man by the Marines to be a killing machine and now I’ve been trained to save lives.”

Ed, himself, “following” J.P.’s path, goes on to be recognized as one of the top surgeons in the country for war wounds to the head and neck.

As an ex-Navy officer who went through many of the same experiences that J.P. (and Ed) endure, I found *From Bayonet To Scalpel* the most captivating saga I have ever read. I lived every moment along with that young Marine as I’m sure any former Marine, See Bee, or Army second lieutenant will too. A must read!

Please send book review inquiries to Lt Col Mark S. Braley at [mark.braley@usafa.af.mil](mailto:mark.braley@usafa.af.mil)